

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-14 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

TERMINAL DISCLAIMER

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1 and 7-10 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. In response, without conceding the correctness of her assertion, but solely to advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicant is submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer. Withdrawal of the provisional double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheet(s)," Figures 4, 5, 13, 14, and 16 have been amended to schematically show the motor and the airflow generator; Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to show the first and second exhaust apertures; and Figure 17 has been amended to show the biasing spring in cooperation with the resiliently biased flap.

In regards to the Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) because the drawings fail to show airflow intersect at an acute angle (claim 3), Applicant respectfully refers the Examiner to Figs 5, 14, and 16, all of which show an airflow intersect at an acute angle.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the Examiner's objections to the drawings.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to overcome the Examiner's objections. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3-6, 11, 12, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 because there is a perceived failure to clearly illustrate the intersection of the airflow and debris at an acute angle. Applicant respectfully refers the Examiner to Figs 5, 14, and 16, all of which show an airflow intersect at an acute angle, and refers the Examiner to paragraphs [0011] and [0012], which disclose the intersection of the airflow and debris at an acute angle.

The Examiner also rejected claim 11 because no function was specified by the words preceding the term "biasing means" and for lack of antecedent basis. Applicant has cancelled claim 11.

Finally, the Examiner rejected claim 12 because there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the axis of pivot." Applicant has amended claim 12 to correct the lack of antecedent basis.

In view of the preceding remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the Examiner's objections to claims 3-6, 11, 12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bellew (U.S. Pat. No. 5,463,816). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include certain limitations of claim 2 which have been indicated as allowable matter by the Examiner. Since claims 2-10 and 12-14 depend either directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, these claims are also allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (410) 716-2886.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9/30/05

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached “Replacement Sheet(s)” of drawings includes changes to Figures 1-5, 13, 14, 16, and 17. The attached “Replacement Sheets,” which includes Figures 1-18, replaces the original sheets including Figures 1-18.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)